

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.402]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Jefferson City Circus Photograph Collection

Abstract: Candid images of circus people and animals from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus (1932) and the Al G. Barnes Circus (1933) when they visited Jefferson City.

Extent: 15 Images

Physical Description: Photographs; Negatives

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIFs

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [description of item], [date]; *Jefferson City Circus Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.402; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift. Accession #2011-0281

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 11/07/2017. Updated by EW on 01/20/2021, 03/25/2021 and 03/07/2022.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

In September 1932, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Jefferson City. A newspaper advertisement claims the Circus is bringing 1,600 people, 800 arenic stars, 100 clowns, 1,009 menagerie animals, 50 elephants, 700 horses, five rings, four stages and a huge hippodrome course.

In August 1933, the Al G. Barnes Circus visited Jefferson City. At this time, the Circus was owned by Ringling Brothers. Barnes's circus was known for its animal attractions and acts. In particular, the tiger act in the center ring was renowned and the tigers were trained by a woman

named Mabel Stark. The circus was set up on a field between Howard and Beck Streets in Jefferson City, Missouri, on what was Louis M. Beck's Dairy Farm.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS064 David Denman Photograph Collection
MS272 Ehrhardt Photograph Collection
MS297 Mark Schreiber Photograph Collection
MS314 Tom Sater Capital City Collection
MS315 Lynn Shaffer Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS317 Duke Diggs Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS329 Alice Fast Postcard Collection
MS340 George Grazier Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS349 Otto Kroeger Photograph Collection
MS360 Dr. Arnold G. Parks Jefferson City Postcard Collection
MS369 Bob Priddy Collection
MS390 Ann Noe Collection
MS394 Priesmeyer Shoe Factory Photograph Collection
MS399 Bill Fannin Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS400 Gary Kremer Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS421 Henry Gensky Photograph Collection
MS426 Jefferson City News Tribune Photograph
MS433 Dr. Joseph Summers Collection
MS463 Jefferson City Photographs by Kendal Mertens
MS467 Ott Construction Company Photograph Collection
MS479 Joe Kleene Photograph Collection
MS481 Martha Rutledge Jefferson City Photograph Collection
MS483 Mary Wilhite Jefferson City Photograph Collection
RG110 Department of Natural Resources National Register of Historic Places

Additional External Resources

“All Roads Lead to ‘Big Top’ of Barnes Circus.” Jefferson City Post-Tribune. August 7, 1933: p. 8.

“Capital City Thrilled as Circus Comes to Town.” Jefferson City Post-Tribune. September 2, 1932: pp. 1-2.

“Thousands in Attendance at Circus Here.” Daily Capital News. September 3, 1932: p. 1.

CIRCUS PHOTOGRAPHS, 1932-1933

Extent: 15 images

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This collection consists of 5"x7" copy prints and 4"x5" copy negatives of images of the Al G. Barnes Circus when it visited Jefferson City on August 7, 1933 and of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus from September 2, 1932.

All images have been digitized. They are available as 800dpi tifs and are on the Z Drive. Some images are also in the Archives' Summer Fun Flickr album.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	167	47	A team of horses pulls a wagon across a field for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.	09/02/1932
	167	48	A man rides a horse across a field. There is a long row of vehicles in the background. This is the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.	09/02/1932
	167	49	A man stands in a field watching the elephants from Al G. Barnes' Circus. Several Circus employees are with the elephants and there is a tent behind them.	08/07/1933
	167	50	Several Asian elephants get ready for the Al G. Barnes Circus. Men are lining them up and there are stepladders next to the elephants so that the howdahs (chairs) on their backs can be loaded.	08/07/1933
	167	51	A group of men poses in front of the elephants from the Al G. Barnes Circus. They wear uniforms. The elephants in the background have large, elaborate chairs called howdahs on their backs.	08/07/1933
	167	52	A woman poses next to an elephant that is wearing layers of blankets and an elaborate chair called a howdah on its back.	08/07/1933
	167	53	Two men sit in front of a decorated circus wagon being pulled by two zebras.	08/07/1933
	167	54	View of the Al G. Barnes Circus tents from across a field of crops.	08/07/1933
	167	55	View of the Al G. Barnes Circus tents from across a field of crops.	08/07/1933
	167	56	View of the Al G. Barnes Circus tents from across a field of crops.	08/07/1933
	167	57	Two elephants walk on the grounds of the Al G. Barnes Circus. A man rides on top of one of the elephant's heads. There are tents in the image as well.	08/07/1933

	167	58	Horses wearing elaborate regalia walk down a lane at the Al G. Barnes Circus. There is an old car in the background as well as a tent flying a U.S. flag.	08/07/1933
	167	59	A young man in a circus outfit holds the rope of a camel. The camel has blankets and a large seat on its back.	08/07/1933
	167	60	A man stands with his team of camels. The Al G. Barnes Circus camels have decorated blankets on their backs.	08/07/1933
	167	61	Image of a steer and two horses.	09/07/1933*

*Although this image is labeled with “9” as the month, it is probably “8” and goes along with the other circus images.